GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1888
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2017
Status of Rupsi Airport
Ajmal Maulana Badruddin

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Rupsi Airport near Dhubri, Assam to be reopened for civil and army air operations;

(b) whether this is a long pending demand of people of Assam as this airport would cater to the need of the people of North Bengal, Cooch Behar etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time which by this airport would be ready for operation?

Answer

The Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a): Rupsi Airport in Assam belongs to Airports Authority of India. On the request of Ministry of Defence for development of the airport for joint user needs, i.e. both civil flight operations and defence requirements, it was decided to hand over the airport to Indian Air Force (IAF). In order to hand over the airport to IAF, a joint survey was carried out by the officers of State Government of Assam, IAF and AAI to demarcate the boundary of airport land. After scrutiny of land records, it was found that 517.27 acres of airport land was notified as forest land in 1966. The State Government has taken up the issue with the State Forest Department for de-notification of the land.
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(b) & (c): There are demands from the State Government, Bodoland Territorial Council, All Assam Bodo Peoples" Conferderations, National Democratic Front, All India United Democratic Front, etc. to revive Rupsi Airport in Assam. Since operationalisation of the airport is subject to de-notification of forest land by the State authorities, no concrete timelines can be envisaged at this stage.